

**Member Testimony Submission**  
**Congressman Scott Perry (PA-4)**  
**House Armed Services Committee**  
**National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017**  
**March 1, 2016**

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Chairman Thornberry, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the Committee:

Today, I focus my remarks on one decision of particular concern with many of our fellow Members of the House: the Army's proposed "Aviation Restructure Initiative" (ARI) and its negative impacts on our reserve component military.

At the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, nearly fifty percent of the Army's total force was reserve component personnel; in fact, the Pennsylvania Army National Guard alone contributed more than 21,000 overseas deployments. To meet these needs, the National Guard has transitioned from a strategic reserve to a fully operational force.

Unfortunately, the Army's proposed ARI will have devastating impacts on everything that the National Guard has achieved thus far. – a fact that's supported by the recent report and recommendations of the National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA). My amendment in last year's NDAA prevented the Army from moving forward with any restructure plans—including ARI—until after the NCFA released its report to Congress for with recommendations. Simply put, the NCFA rejected the ARI proposal after comparing it to a number of alternatives – so, simply answered; we need to act upon this report and its recommendations. Now's the time to halt the ARI, and retain the four Apache battalions in question in the National Guard.

The Commission's recommendation offers "significant advantages" over ARI - allowing for greater wartime capacity, improved operating tempo, higher wartime surge capacity, and the key goal of "achieving One Army that works and trains together in peacetime and, if necessary, fights together in war." It also balances the force and provides for like components. If two more ARBs are needed, they should be maintained in the Guard based on cost and nearly every other metric from arms inspection results to safety, to success in combat.